

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2003. An appropriate Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,081,381 or rendered obvious by the '381 patent and one of a number of secondary references.

Applicant submits that while the '381 may disclose certain components that form the claimed device, the reference actually teaches away from the claimed device. Specifically, beginning at the background section at column 2 lines 39-58, the reference indicated that prior art techniques that utilized a single-stage coherence reducing unit were at a disadvantage as being insufficient to perform that task of suppressing coherence. Moreover, it is evident from the specification that the essence of the apparatus of the '381 patent for eliminating speckle pattern in optical systems by reducing coherence lies in the use of a rotating microlens array having a rotational speed chosen with reference to parameters of the coherent light source. See Col. 3 lines 10-25.

Applicant submits that even if the '381 patent teaches the art as suggested by the Examiner, the claimed illuminator which uses only a single holographic diffuser, which is tantamount to a single-stage coherence reducing unit, is not taught by the '381 patent. Moreover, the claimed illuminator does not require any microlens array. A reference which teaches a device that requires a plurality of components does not anticipate a claimed device which requires fewer components.

In a similar vein, applicant submits that even if the secondary references teach the art as suggested by the Examiner, these secondary references do not cure the deficiencies of the '381 patent.

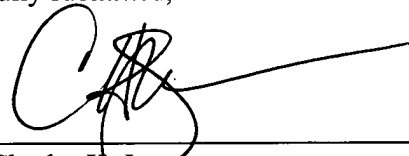
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, July 14, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7.14.03

By: 
Charles H. Jew
Reg. No. 34,192

FLIESLER DUBB MEYER & LOVEJOY LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone: (415) 362-3800